Notes from Dean Steven S. Waller

CASNR Service Commitments
The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) administrators and office personnel believe their role is to provide support and service to the academic programs of units, and faculty, staff, students and guests. The CASNR Service Commitments are available on the CASNR website at [http://go.unl.edu/k02w](http://go.unl.edu/k02w)

Enrollment Update and Student Demographics - Fall 2013
CASNR undergraduate enrollment increased 5.2% (105 students) to 2114 [2099 at UNL and 15 at UNO (3 pre-agricultural sciences, 5 pre-horticulture, 2 pre-turfgrass and landscape management, 1 pre-food science and technology, and 4 pre-natural resources]. This is an all-time high CASNR undergraduate enrollment (previously 2009 enrolled in 2012). UNL undergraduate enrollment increased 1.4% (+273:19,103 to 19,376).

• Total UNL enrollment (undergraduate, graduate and professional) is 24,445, a 1.0% increase from the previous Fall.

• UNL increased 238 students in Fall-13 (undergraduate, graduate and professional). The CASNR undergraduate enrollment increased 105 (CASNR/UNO). Biochemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences decreased 24 students. The certificate in CAS increased 1. Agricultural Engineering increased 10 students and Biological Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering increased 18 students. The Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine increased 2 students and the Doctor of Plant Health program increased 4 students. The graduate student enrollment in departments and programs within CASNR increased 38 to 636. Consequently CASNR accounted for an increase of 154 students across undergraduate, graduate and professional programs (64.7% of UNL’s growth).

• This is the ninth consecutive year that the College has had an increase in undergraduate enrollment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>3.44% (1st)*</td>
<td>42 students (1st)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>3.1% (2nd)</td>
<td>39 students (3rd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>11.7% (1st)</td>
<td>152 students (1st)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>12.9% (1st)</td>
<td>187 students (1st)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>7.1% (2nd)</td>
<td>116 students (3rd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>7.1% (2nd)</td>
<td>124 students (2nd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>3.0% (2nd)</td>
<td>56 students (3rd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>3.7% (3rd)</td>
<td>71 students (2nd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>5.2% (2nd)</td>
<td>105 students (2nd)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* UNL Rank

• The number of students graduating (December 2012, May 2013 and August 2013) comprised our largest
graduating class [up 27 graduates from the previous year, 424 to 451 (6.4% increase)].

- First-time student (new UNL/CASNR freshman, including UNO) enrollment increased from 362 to 434 (+19.9%) (UNL increased 12.4%). The degree programs with the largest class of new freshmen (UNL, including UNO) were Animal Science (56), Pre-veterinary Medicine (54) Agribusiness (49), Forensic Science (39), and Agronomy (35). Nebraska residents were 77.6% (337/434) of first-time freshmen.

- The student population (UNL/CASNR and UNO; 2114) is 58.4% male (1235) and 41.6% female (879) (a significant increase in females). Nebraska residents comprise 84.7% of our total student population (1791/2114).

- The top five degree programs based on CASNR enrollment are: Animal Science (300), Agribusiness (220), Agronomy (200), Fisheries and Wildlife (194), PGA Golf Management (111). Biochemistry has a total enrollment of 259 (85-CASNR, 174- CAS).

- Areas of growth (degree programs/pre-program with at least 25 students) include Pre-veterinary Medicine (+90.0%) Agronomy (+17.6%), Agricultural Economics (+12.3%), Agribusiness (+10.5%) and Environmental Studies (+7.0%).

- The total College undergraduate enrollment is 2596 (+4.4% increase over last fall) [174 Biochemistry and 1 in the certificate program in the College of Arts and Sciences (-11.6%), 56 Agricultural Engineers (55 at UNL and 1 at UNO) (+21.7%) and 251 Biological Systems Engineers (+7.7%)[247 at UNL and 4 at UNO] in the College of Engineering.]

- New transfer students (UNL/CASNR, including UNO) increased 2.2% from 136 to 139. There is 1 transfer student at UNO (pre-Turfgrass and Landscape Management). The UNL degree programs with the largest class of new transfer students were Animal Science (29), Agribusiness (13), Agronomy (13), Fisheries and Wildlife (12), Applied Science and PGA Golf Management (8 each).

- New transfer students represent 24.3% (139/573) of first-time students (UNL/CASNR and UNO).

- The College had the second largest percent increase in non-resident students (+17.0%) (includes both CASNR and UNO). About fifteen thirteen percent (15.3%) of our total undergraduates (UNL/CASNR and UNO) are non-resident students (323). The College has 32 states represented in addition to Nebraska. Our largest feeder states are Minnesota (47), Iowa (25), Illinois (24), South Dakota (22), Colorado (22), California (20) Missouri (17), and Kansas (16).

- Programs with the largest non-resident enrollment are Forensic Science (51 students, 46.4% of total enrollment), PGA Golf Management (46 students, 41.4%), Animal Science (39 students, 13.0%), Biochemistry (24 students, 28.2%) and Food Science and technology (22 students, 31%).

- The Big Ten States (Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin) accounted for 5.6% (118/2114) of our total undergraduate enrollment and 9.2% (40/434) of our first-time freshmen in the Fall 2013. First time freshmen from Big Ten States increased 60% this year (25 to 40). Last fall the same states accounted for 5.1% (103/2009) of total undergraduate enrollment and 6.9% (25/362) of our first time freshmen.

- Graduate student enrollment on the sixth-day census (Fall 2012; Fall 2013) increased (+6.4%) in CASNR departments (598 to 636 enrolled graduate students). A reconciliation of the parent unit added 5 students (Food Safety and Defense certificate) after the data was released. The total, corrected
graduate enrollment is 641.

- The Fall-2013 incoming CASNR class (freshmen and transfer students, including UNO) increased from last fall (+15.1%) (498 to 573).

- The average ACT score for ALL new freshman in CASNR programs [UNL], COE (Agricultural Engineering and Biological Systems Engineering), and CAS (Biochemistry)] is 25.53 compared to 25.3 for UNL. The average ACT for the College (all students) [UNL, UNO (pre-horticulture, pre-food science and technology, pre-natural resources and pre-agricultural sciences), COE (Agricultural Engineering and Biological Systems Engineering, and CAS (Biochemistry)] is 25.31.

- The student population (UNL/CASNR and UNO; 2114) is 91.35% (1931) White-Non Hispanic and Unknown), 0.52% Asian (11); 0.85% Black/Non-Hispanic (18); 3.31% Hispanic (70); 0.19% American Indian/Alaska Native (4); 1.84% Two or More Races (39). The minority student population as a percent of the total undergraduate College enrollment is 6.7% (142/2114, does not include ‘non-resident alien’ and ‘unknown’).

- Part-time students comprise 5.6% of the total undergraduate (UNL/CASNR and UNO) students (118/2114).

- International students comprise 1.9% (41 students) of the total CASNR and UNO enrollment. They represent 20 countries. Students from China represent 48.8% (20/41) of our international students. Food Science and Technology has the largest international student enrollment (14) which is 19.7% of their total undergraduate enrollment.

- The CASNR (including UNO) undergraduate student population based on class standing is: 496 freshmen (first-time and other), 359 Sophomores, 576 Juniors and 683 Seniors (includes 2nd degree senior). Approximately 40% of our students are classified as underclassmen and 60% are upperclassmen.

East Campus Facilities Update

East Campus Housing

Burr Hall and Fedde Hall will be closed at the end of the 2014-15 academic year. (code and safety issues) Alternative strategies for residential housing on East Campus are being discussed (a possible location is in close proximity to CYT and the NEU). We anticipate a new facility of about 450 -500 beds to be economical (current capacity if all doubles is 220 in Burr Hall and 76 in Fedde Hall). The discussions currently are focused on developing an appropriate funding model, rather than whether we should or should not have housing on East Campus.

Holdrege Development

Tenants are being identified in addition to the Valentino’s commitment. Studio apartments will be on the third floor. IANR is leasing 13 studio apartments on the second floor for general use by IANR units throughout the year.

C. Y. Thompson Library

Programming is moving forward for the retro-fitting of the facility to serve as a library and student success, service and learning commons center. The Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program will likely be housed there and we also anticipate relocating the East Campus Visitors Center in the facility.

East Campus Malls

The Mall from Chase Hall south will be extended to Holdrege. There will be a significant ‘entrance’ and pedestrian area from Holdrege north to the loop (no vehicular street at his time). The mall west of CYT will be opened up to the Chase Hall mall. The NEU will have a plaza to the south onto the mall with a proposed water
feature. The statues of the secretaries of Ag will be on the periphery of the mall area. The ‘Wake Dance’ (west of CYT) and the ‘Ascot’ (south of Entomology Hall) sculptures will be relocated.

**East Campus Activities Center**
Due to be opened in early spring 2015.

**Veterinary Diagnostic Center**
Approved by the CCPE.

**Lincoln Nursing Facility**
To be built to the north of Dental College.

**Parking**
A study of parking needs will be required as new buildings replace some existing surface lots and anticipated growth creates a higher demand for parking.

**CASNR Website**
An updated web page for Faculty and Staff Resources can now be found at:
[http://casnr.unl.edu/web/casnr/linksforfacultyandstaff](http://casnr.unl.edu/web/casnr/linksforfacultyandstaff)

**Awards**

**Holling Family Award Program for Teaching Excellence**
Nominations for the annual Holling Family Teaching Excellence Awards in Agriculture and Natural Resources are due on January 10, 2014. Nominations may be made by peers and/or administrators who feel that a particular individual effort is deserving of special recognition. Make sure your nomination includes specific information on how an individual’s work matches with the criteria listed below since this is how each packet will be evaluated.

**The Categories**
1) Senior Faculty Teaching Awards, which are $5,000 per individual.
2) Junior Faculty Teaching Awards, which are $3,000 per individual.
3) Teaching Assistant Awards, which are $1,000 per individual.

**Criteria**
For faculty nominations, the selection committee will consider:
- Identification of innovation in an educational program.
- Description of goals of the project, target audience, estimated numbers involved, other colleagues involved, and time line.
- Outcomes of teaching activity on the learners, types of leaner activities utilized (e.g., active learning; cooperative or collaborative learning; interactive learning using technology; and distance learning processes).
- Evidence of peer evaluation of the nominee’s work.

For teaching assistant nominations, the selection committee will consider:
- Successful performance in the classroom with preference given to those introducing imaginative and/or innovative instructional practices into the classroom or laboratory.
- Enthusiasm and commitment to teaching.
- Satisfactory progress towards a degree.
- Letter(s) of support from their graduate advisor/course instructor and students in the course.

All nominations should be submitted through the appropriate IANR Head or Director to the cognizant Dean, or through the appropriate NCTA Program Director to the NCTA Dean. The deans will forward nominations to the Holling Family
Award Program for Teaching Excellence Selection Committee, 103 Agricultural Hall, Lincoln, NE 68583-0702. Recipients will be recognized at a 2104 spring term reception, through the IANR new media and at appropriate CASNR, Extension and NCTA events/meetings. Questions may be directed to Dr. Dann Husmann, Chair of the Selection Committee, at 472-2201. Complete guidelines and nomination forms are available on the CASNR website: http://go.unl.edu/rav9

Association for Public and Land-grant Universities
Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss was presented with the national United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Agriculture Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award for 2013 at the APLU annual meeting in Washington, D.C. on November 10. Congratulations, Tiffany!

The 2013 Lawrence K. Crowe Undergraduate Advising Award was presented to Dr. Bryan Reiling, Department of Animal Science, at the Undergraduate Advising Luncheon held on October 17, 2013, in the Nebraska East Union. Heather Okenfels, Director of the First-year Experience and Transitions Program, gave a brief presentation of this new program at UNL. The Crowe Family has provided a $1,000 stipend to accompany this award. Congratulations, Bryan!

The 2013 Darrell W. Nelson Graduate Advising Award was presented to Dr. Robert Hutkins, Department of Food Science and Technology, at the annual Fellowship Luncheon on October 31, 2013. A $1,000 stipend accompanies this award. Congratulations, Bob!

Academic Information

ACE Reporting Requirements
Please note that all ACE courses MUST archive all assessment materials defined in the original ACE proposal every semester the course is offered. Failure to provide this archiving may result in decertification and loss of ACE status. This could be particularly interesting for ACE 10 courses which are required for completion of degree requirements. If you have questions, please contact John Markwell.

Policy on Minimum Class Enrollments
The CASNR policy on class size is that undergraduate classes with less than ten students, or graduate classes with less than five students, require permission to be offered. Instructors of such classes should contact their unit administrator requesting that an email be sent to the CASNR Dean seeking permission to offer the class. If permission is not received, the class will not be used for CASNR teaching load calculations. In a recent survey, it appeared that a significant number of classes in CASNR are being offered in spite of low enrollments. Units should consider whether it is possible to offer such classes on a less frequent basis, or move a class with multiple sections to a larger room; such action may help increase curricular flexibility and help with staffing shortfalls.

Reminder about the UNL Syllabus Policy
All courses must have a syllabus and all syllabi must include specific information about the instructor, course requirements, grading policy and schedule for examinations. This policy may be found at http://www.unl.edu/asenate/syllabuspolicy.pdf. In addition, the syllabus must include the following language:

“Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3737 voice or TTY.”

Update on PEARL Assessments—Consider Combining with ACE
A significant number of the PEARL assessment programs are having difficulty getting data input into the reporting system. There is a strong concern at the College administrative levels that spotty or incomplete assessment reporting could jeopardize academic program reviews in the future, so there will be increased emphasis on compliance with minimum reporting in the PEARL System. We strongly suggest that academic programs consider modifications so that ACE 10 assessment is integrated into the PEARL system. This will potentially simplify assessment data collection. Please contact John Markwell if there are questions.

**Reminder on Implementing CIEQ**
It is time to start thinking about administering the CIEQ evaluation for the Fall semester. For the most meaningful results, the instrument may be administered anytime during the last five weeks of the semester. Do not administer the instrument on the day before an exam, the day of an exam, or the day following an exam. Make sure that students have adequate time to provide feedback on the back of the instrument. Please make sure that the information bubble sheet has the instructor’s correct name. You only need to administer the CIEQ instrument if you were an instructor for five or more weeks of a course. If you have questions about interpretation of the CIEQ results, contact John Markwell.

**Classroom Emergency Preparedness and Response Information**
We are currently in the process of working with the CASNR Faculty Advisory Council to update the Classroom Emergency Preparedness Information and discussing to what extent this sort of information should be included in the syllabus of every course and reviewed with students at the start of the course. The following is the current essential information:

- **Fire Alarm (or other evacuation):** In the event of a fire alarm: Gather belongings (Purse, keys, cellphone, N-Card, etc.) and use the nearest exit to leave the building. Do not use the elevators. After exiting notify emergency personnel of the location of persons unable to exit the building. Do not return to building unless told to do so by emergency personnel.
- **Tornado Warning:** When sirens sound, move to the lowest interior area of building or designated shelter. Stay away from windows and stay near an inside wall when possible.
- **Active Shooter**
  - **Evacuate:** if there is a safe escape path, leave belongings behind, keep hands visible and follow police officer instructions.
  - **Hide out:** If evacuation is impossible secure yourself in your space by turning out lights, closing blinds and barricading doors if possible.
  - **Take action:** As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter.
- **UNL Alert:** Notifications about serious incidents on campus are sent via text message, email, unl.edu website, and social media. For more information go to: [http://unlalert.unl.edu](http://unlalert.unl.edu).
- Additional Emergency Procedures can be found here: [http://emergency.unl.edu/doc/Emergency_Procedures_Quicklist.pdf](http://emergency.unl.edu/doc/Emergency_Procedures_Quicklist.pdf)

**Students Updating their e-mail Addresses**
We have recently found that suggesting students update their email addresses in Blackboard so that they receive all the emails sent by the instructor has an unexpected complication. If a student updates their email in Blackboard, it will be reset to the former email address overnight. The email address in MyRed is the one that the other university computer systems heed. To change the email address in Blackboard, students must change the address in MyRed.

**Changes in “X” courses**
Several modifications have been made recently that streamline the set up and offering of online “X” courses. These changes will regularize the way different delivery formats are presented in the class schedule and bulletin. In addition, these changes will ensure that students and advisors will see all sections of a course when searching for a class in MyRed as the default.
- **X Course Policy Changes:**
  - X courses may now be offered during the summer sessions.
Students may now take more than multiple X course per semester.

- **On-Campus Testing and Class Notes:** Remember X courses require on-campus testing in one of the on-campus testing centers. You should include in the class notes for all X courses a statement that this type of online class requires on-campus testing in one of the testing centers. “S” Online Distance Classes do not require on-campus testing.

- **Instructional Mode:** For department schedulers completing cycle sheets or working with Registration and Records to set up an “X” course, please note that the Instruction Mode remains EX.

### FTE Calculations with Activity Insight Faculty Data

This message is to provide you with an update on our progress in pulling faculty data from Activity Insight (AI) into a separate program to calculate FTE related to teaching in CASNR for your faculty. We are presently still experiencing challenges with the integrity of the data from AI being used in our Access database to calculate FTE for teaching. We’re investigating how data are being pulled into our database and how calculations are functioning to determine the outputs from this activity.

We are still experiencing various errors in the output and have people working from various angles trying to solidify the FTE data input and the calculation processes. Before we let the various systems determine our faculty members’ teaching FTE calculations, I want to make sure the integrity of our systems is 100% and all are receiving accurate data/output.

With this realization, if there are faculty who need FTE teaching data from fall 2011, spring 2012, and summer 2012 for promotion and tenure considerations, please let me know. If you provide me with the name, we will manually run the calculations to ensure you receive FTE calculations related to teaching for your use.

If you have questions, please let me know. I appreciate your willingness and considerations as we strive to successfully move to full implementation of Activity Insight and to a system we can utilize to provide accurate and efficient data for FTE calculations in teaching for our faculty in CASNR.

### Reminder on Activity Insight

The new Activity Insight program is used to update your teaching information so that we can correctly determine your Teaching Load Calculation. To avoid having to take the time in January during the busy start of the Spring semester to complete the academic portion of your Activity Insight report, you might consider updating it every semester. We remind you that if you do not complete the Activity Insight, your teaching load calculation and the unit’s FTE calculation will be done without your information. Please contact Dann Husmann if you have questions about Activity Insight.

Also, if you are involved with International Activities, there should now be a box in Activity Insight, as well as NU Grant asking if your activity has a significant International component. If you answer ‘yes’, a text box will open so that you can provide details. This could be a huge step forward in helping us better identify the international efforts of our faculty.

### Reminder on CDMA Forms

In the past year, we have found a number of instances in which the College-Degree-Major-Advisor Change Form (CDMA) sent down to the Administration Building without being routed through the CASNR Dean’s Office for a signature. It is important that this form be processed in the Dean’s Office so that the changes can be entered into the student’s folder.

### 2013-2014 Scholarship Report

- Total number of Scholarships given by CASNR/Units: 910
- Total number of Students receiving Scholarships from CASNR/Units: 774
- Total percent of students receiving awards from CASNR/Units: 36.8%
- Total Amount Awarded through CASNR/Units: $1,018,229.75
Average Value of all Scholarships $1084.18  
Maximum Value $10,000.00  
Minimum Value $25.00

**College Level Awards**
Total Awarded through Dean’s Office $709,461.75  
Total Number of Scholarships Awarded through Dean’s Office 591  
Total Number of Students receiving Awards through Dean’s Office 529

**Unit Level Awards**
Total Awarded through Units $308,768.00  
Total Number of Scholarships Awarded through Units 319  
Total Number of Students receiving awards through Units 245

**Scholarships Awarded for Education Abroad**
A total of $28,795 in scholarship money was awarded by the CASNR Dean’s office in 2012-2013 including:
- Argentina - 11 students - $675 each
- Australia - 1 student - $810
- Brazil 1 student - $1500
- Costa Rica - 8 students - $630 each
- Ireland - 2 students - $540 each
- Japan - 1 student - $1500
- Namibia - 4 students - $810 each
- New Zealand - 1 student - $1500
- Africa - 1 student - $1500
- Australia - 1 student - $750
- Ireland - 1 student - $1000
- Argentina - 1 student - $750
- Puerto Rico - 6 students - $450 each

**Senior Exit Survey Results**
To view the results of the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 Senior Exit Surveys conducted as part of the Salute, please go to [http://casnr.unl.edu/web/CASNR/srexitssurvey](http://casnr.unl.edu/web/CASNR/srexitssurvey)

**College Updates**

**Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program**
The Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program offers both a 12 and an 18 credit minor to CASNR students. In addition, a joint minor in Entrepreneurship and Leadership is offered in partnership with the ALEC department. For more information or to schedule a meeting with Tom Field, Program Director, please have students contact Michelle Bassford at [mbassford7@unl.edu](mailto:mbassford7@unl.edu). Please visit engler.unl.edu to learn more about the Engler Program offerings and your opportunity to join with like-minded students to pursue innovative and entrepreneurial solutions.

**Justin Morrill Scholars Update**
The Justin Smith Morrill Scholars Program is a student organization and development program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) that draws upon the life experiences and accomplishments of Justin Smith Morrill, author of the Land-Grant College Acts. To honor his vision and his legacy, CASNR has developed a four-year program for
undergraduate students who are interested in advancing the public good through social and civic responsibility while exploring ideas and solutions to solve critical issues related to food, fuel, water, landscapes, and human health. This program is team taught by Dr. Ronnie Green, Dr. Deepak Keshwani, Sue Ellen Pegg and Andrew Uden (GTA). Students in the program will:

- Participate in a two-semester seminar series.
- Organize and participate in colloquiums centered on the Heuermann Lectures and personally interact with the Heuermann Lecturers.
- Travel to the Justin Smith Morrill homestead in Vermont as sophomores for a service project, and travel to Washington, D.C. as juniors to meet with leaders in government.
- Develop and implement a capstone senior project working with local and/or global partners.

This fall, 24 students joined the revamped Justin Smith Morrill Scholars program. In addition to participating in the seminar class taught by Dr. Ronnie Green, the scholars organized two colloquiums centered on the Heuermann Lectures and hosted a dinner for Dr. Sally Mackenzie, the first Heuermann Lecturer of the 2013-14 season.

The Justin Smith Morrill Scholars Program is open to all UNL students. For more information, please contact Deepak Keshwani at dkeshwani2@unl.edu

**School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences**

We have added some new faculty members to the school. Dr. Grotelueschen will be providing leadership to the Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center (GPVEC) as the new director. His veterinary expertise, leadership skills and knowledge of Nebraska will be a tremendous asset to the school. We have also added Dr. Kathy Whitman as a clinical veterinarian at GPVEC. Dr. Whitman comes to us from Utah. Dr. Brittney Riley joined the faculty August 1 and will assist Dr. Brad Jones in teaching our clinical foundation courses. Dr. Riley graduated in the ISU/UNL Class of 2012. Dr. Whitman and Dr. Riley will allow us to continue to expand the hands-on clinical training we are providing our students.

We continue to raise funds for the new Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The plan has been approved by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. The next phase will be development of the initial architectural plans.

Both faculty and students from the School participated in the Summer Scholars Research Program offered through the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The program provides funding for students to participate in research. Students work with an established researcher for approximately three months. Through hands-on experiences, seminars and tours, students gain insight into the exciting roles played by veterinarians in research.

2013 Scholars and their faculty mentors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholar</th>
<th>Faculty Mentor</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erin Bradley</td>
<td>Dr. Rodrigo Franco Cruz</td>
<td>Effect of Environmental Toxicity/Oxidative Stress on the Ubiquitin-Proteasom System and its Association with Neurodegenerative Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne Fischer</td>
<td>Dr. Rodney Moxley</td>
<td>Effect of Background Flora on Detection of Non-O157 STEC on Chromogenic Agar Media</td>
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<td>(Class of 2015)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kayce Kobs</td>
<td>Dr. Nancy Cornick (ISU)</td>
<td>Age related changes in the intestinal microbiome protect neonatal piglets from <em>Clostridium difficile</em> infection</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Class of 2015)</td>
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Campus Progress on the Life Sciences

The Life Sciences curriculum now consists of a two-semester series of courses and associated laboratories covering the fundamentals of biology. It is intended to serve those students who intend on taking more advanced life sciences courses. Enrollments for Fall 2013 exceeded our expectations with 679 students enrolled in the LIFE 120 course and 255 students in the LIFE 121 course. We are scheduled to offer two sections (500 student capacity) of LIFE 120 and three sections (750 student capacity) of LIFE 121 for Spring 2014.

If you have any questions about the new LIFE courses or integrating these courses into your degree programs, please do not hesitate to contact Tiffany Heng-Moss (thengmoss2@unl.edu).

Employment Seminar (AGRI/NRES 388)

Employment Seminar was held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. for the first eight weeks of the Fall semester. Subjects covered included: resume and cover letter development; speed networking; job search strategies on the Internet/Husker Hire Link; job search ethics and job offer evaluation; interviewing and professional etiquette; preparing for a career fair; industry mock interviews; and etiquette dinner and discussion. Fifty-two students participated in the course.

CASNR Career Fair

The 2013 CASNR Career Fair was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 in the Nebraska East Union from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The CASNR Career Fair was held in conjunction with Career Fair Week, which featured three days of Career Fairs with over 300 employers participating in total. Students (536) and alumni from the University and local community attended the CASNR Career Fair to visit with 81 employing organizations and graduate institutions. Representatives from local, state, and national organizations attended to connect with students as they seek full-time and internship opportunities. New employers that came to the career fair included: Lansing Trade Group, Armour- Eckrich Meats, DuPont Crop Protection, Global Industries Inc, JBS USA, JobXSite, Keesecker Agri-Bus Inc, Land O’Frost, Mid-America Feed Yard, Nebraska State Bank, Panhandle Cooperative Association, Ryan Lawn and Tree, UNL Feedlot Management Internship, UNL Online & Distance Education, and Walker Ag Supply. In addition to the career fair, we hosted the ninth annual “CASNR Dean’s Employer Appreciation Banquet”. It was held the evening before the career fair with 24 employers and department representatives in attendance. The annual Faculty/Employer Brunch was held the morning of the career fair with 104 employers and faculty in attendance. The day after the career fair 282 interviews were conducted, and another 96 the next week.

National FFA Convention

This year’s National FFA Convention was held in Louisville, KY on October 30-November 2. CASNR hosted a display at the event and had the opportunity to speak to middle and high school students from throughout the United States. The CASNR display was hosted by representatives from the CASNR Dean’s Office, CASNR Career Services Office, the Animal Science Department and the School of Natural Resources. More than 56,000 students attended the event.

The Nebraska State FFA Convention will be held April 9, 10 & 11, 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stefan Mark (Class of 2015)</th>
<th>Dr. Greg Somerville</th>
<th>Linking metabolism to virulence determinant biosynthesis in Staphylococcus aureus</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lauren Pudenz (Class of 2016)</td>
<td>Dr. N. Matthew Elinwood (ISU)</td>
<td>Large Animal Cognition as a Preclinical Measure in Metabolic and Neuropathic Disorders: Challenges and Potential</td>
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CASNR Week Activities

Friday, April 11  
Bowl-A-Thon/Burr Hall  7-midnight

Saturday, April 12  
Fun Run  9:00 am
Burr Hall Bull Fry  4-8 pm
Steer Stomp  8-midnight?

Sunday, April 13  
Student Involvement Reception  Reception at 4:00
CASNR Week Banquet  5:00
Alpha Zeta Initiation 3:00

Monday, April 14  
Nebraska Community Blood Bank Blood Drive  9-3:00 pm

Tuesday, April 15  
Lunch on the Lawn  11am to 1:00pm
Community Night  5-7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 16  
Club Adviser Luncheon  Noon to 1:00 pm

Thursday, April 17  
TA Luncheon  Noon to 1:00 pm
Alpha Gamma Rho/Sigma Alpha Barbecue  5-8:00 pm

Fri/Sat Apr 18, 19  
Rodeo/Lancaster Event Center

Salute to Graduates
The May 2013 Salute to Graduates ceremony was attended by 117 of 262 graduates and an audience of over 600 family members, faculty, staff and guests. The Salute to Graduates ceremony, moderated by Vice Chancellor Ronnie Green and CASNR Dean Steve Waller, continues to receive praise from attendees. Frequent comments tell us that those attending appreciate its personalized focus and individualized recognition. Over 6,000 family members and friends have experienced the vibrant East Campus environment to attend Salute ceremonies each May and December in the Nebraska East Union. Over 2,230 graduates have now made Salute a great tradition since the ceremony was inaugurated in December 2005.

The December 2013 Salute to Graduates will be held on Friday, December 20th at 4:00 p.m. in the Nebraska East Union. The Senior Send-Off event will be held on Saturday, December 21st at 7:30 a.m. in the Haymarket Room of the Pinnacle Bank Arena just prior to commencement. We invite you to join us for both of these events!

Fall 2013 CASNR Alumni Tailgate & Silent Auction
The annual CASNR Alumni Association football tailgate and benefit silent auction was held September 21 prior to the South Dakota State football game with over 150 people were in attendance.

The silent auction generated over $5,400 to support alumni association scholarships for incoming CASNR freshmen. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event!
Welcome to New Faculty with CASNR Teaching Appointments!

Behavioral Economics and Health Disparities

Christopher Gustafson

Assistant Professor
Agricultural Economics
CASNR: 0.30 FTE

EDUCATION: Ph.D., University of California, Davis
START DATE: September 1, 2013

In his research, Christopher Gustafson has used experimental economics techniques and behavioral economic principles to study consumer valuation and choice in the American wine market. Chris returns to UNL from south-central Tanzania where he lived and worked as a Post Doctoral Scholar with the One Health Institute of the University of California, Davis. On the project, funded by USAID, he worked on a project to provide pastoralist communities in the area with education on livestock health and human nutrition.

Science Literacy Coordinator

Cory Forbes

Associate Professor
School of Natural Resources
CASNR: 0.75 FTE

EDUCATION: Ph.D., University of Michigan
START DATE: January 2, 2014

Cory Forbes is PI on three externally-funded projects, including the NSF-funded Modeling Hydrologic Systems in Elementary Science (MoHSES) project, each of which involves regional, national, and international partnerships with education researchers, STEM faculty, and practitioners. Through these projects, Cory has pursued an active discipline-based educational research program, including studies of 3rd-grade students’ learning about biological structure and function and hydrologic systems, as well as elementary teachers’ enactment of science curriculum modules, implementation of formative assessment practices to support students’ learning about water, and pedagogical reasoning about food systems. Cory is actively involved in science teacher education, leading efforts to implement reform-based programs and courses that prepare elementary teachers to support students’ science learning.
Community Leadership Development

Assistant Professor
Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communication
Director of Nebraska Human Resources Institute
CASNR: 0.25 FTE

EDUCATION: Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln

START DATE: July 1, 2013

Lindsay Hastings’ programmatic focus will be on the Nebraska Human Resources Institute, a leadership development organization that pairs outstanding college student leaders with outstanding K – 12 student leaders in one-to-one leadership mentoring relationships. Her research interests include generative leadership and social responsibility, examining what factors influence a leader’s ability to promote and establish the well-being of future generations. Lindsay’s most recent research, which received the 2012 Dr. Ron Joekel Research Award, examined generativity in college student leaders as a result of engaging in a mentoring relationship.

Computational Sciences

Assistant Professor
Biochemistry
CASNR: 0.30 FTE

EDUCATION: Ph.D., University of Nebraska Medical Center

START DATE: September 9, 2013

Tomáš Helikar’s research focus is three-fold: 1) using large-scale computational models to better understand the dynamics of molecular and cellular mechanisms in complex networks under healthy as well as diseased conditions; 2) development of technologies to enable more efficient and integrated utility of computational systems biology, and 3) implementation of interactive computational modeling in life science courses to improve STEM education. Tomáš’ recent contributions to life sciences research include discovery of new evidence of cellular decision-making (Helikar et al., 2008. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A), as well as development of a community-based platform for the construction, simulation, and analysis of large-scale computational models of biological systems (Helikar et al., 2012. BMC Syst Biol).
Life Sciences Education

Assistant Professor of Practice
School of Natural Resources
CASNR: 1.0 FTE

EDUCATION: Ph.D., Oregon State University
START DATE: August 15, 2013

Jenny Dauer completed her Ph.D. research at Oregon State University. After graduate school, she was a postdoctoral scholar at Michigan State University. Her research focused on discipline-based educational research. At UNL, Jenny will contribute to teaching in the new introductory LIFE series and conduct research on how student’s learn and how to best teach carbon transforming processes, carbon cycling and global climate change. She will also be contributing to the redesign of the first year experience for CASNR students.

Life Sciences Education

Assistant Professor
School of Natural Resources
CASNR: 1.0 FTE

EDUCATION: Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University
START DATE: August 15, 2013

During his graduate studies, Joe Dauer focused on long-distance weed seed dispersal in agroecosystems, coupling mathematical modeling with weed management. After returning to the Pacific Northwest for a postdoctoral position at Oregon State University in applied ecology, he became interested in better teaching techniques and understanding how students learn about biology. Most recently he has worked at Michigan State University where he continued invasive plant ecology research and began in earnest to pursue research on learning in undergraduate biology. At UNL Joe will contribute to teaching in the new introductory LIFE series and conduct research on how undergraduate life science students use models (conceptual and mathematical) to organize their thinking about biological systems. He has received funding for his research from USDA and BASF Corporation.
Plant Arthropod Interactions

Assistant Professor
Entomology & Biochemistry
CASNR: 0.20 FTE

EDUCATION: Ph.D., University of North Texas
START DATE: October 7, 2013

Joe Louis has completed a postdoctoral scholar at the Department of Entomology at Pennsylvania State University, and has authored 14 peer-reviewed publications including three book chapters. Joe is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including the John Henry Comstock Graduate Student Award from the Entomological Society of America and ICINN Student Recognition Award in Insect Physiology, Biochemistry, Toxicology, and Molecular Biology from the Entomological Foundation. His responsibilities will include contributing to IANR's Stress Biology team; understanding the molecular biology and physiology of plant responses to arthropod feeding; and developing graduate and/or undergraduate courses in an identified area of specialization.

Advanced Machinery Systems Engineer

Assistant Professor
Biological Systems Engineering
CASNR: 0.60 FTE

EDUCATION: Ph.D., University of Kentucky
START DATE: October 1, 2013

Santosh Pitla's professional specialty is development of machinery automation applications using MATLAB, VB.Net, and embedded controller programming. Santosh also develops sensing methodologies, control algorithms, and wireless communication modules for deploying highly automated agricultural machine systems in row and bio energy crop production. His doctoral research, which was patented, was funded by CNH. His postdoctoral research at The Ohio State University, on the feasibility of deploying autonomous vehicles, was also funded by CNH.
Micrometeorologist

Associate Professor
School of Natural Resources
CASNR: 0.20 FTE

EDUCATION: Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln
START DATE: July 1, 2013

Andy Suyker’s research interests include the exchanges of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water vapor in key agricultural and natural ecosystems. Andy’s research has quantified the seasonal and inter-annual variability of net ecosystem CO₂ exchange and evapotranspiration in irrigated and rain-fed maize-soybean cropping systems. He regularly collaborates with scientists in other disciplines at UNL, and is collaborating with leading scientists in the US, Canada, and Europe to advance our knowledge of the carbon and water cycles and global climate change. He has received major funding from the US Department of Energy and from NASA.

Rangeland Ecologist

Assistant Professor
Agronomy & Horticulture
CASNR: 0.50 FTE

EDUCATION: Ph.D., Texas A&M University
START DATE: November 4, 2013

Dirac Twidwell has established a broad research program that integrates rangeland ecology and management with several other disciplines in agriculture and natural resources. His research has focused on how vegetation responds to climatic and disturbance extremes, the potential advantages of extreme disturbance events in ecological restoration, wildfire threats in urban environments, and trade-offs in ecosystem services resulting from changes in land use. Dirac joins UNL following a postdoctoral research appointment at Oklahoma State University. His research output has already been incorporated into regional landowner management practices and federal agency policies.